



# CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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## WAXMAN PRAISES REJECTION OF LEFEVER

Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles), a leading Congressional proponent of a strong American human rights policy, praised the Senate for rejecting Ernest W. Lefever for the post of Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights. Though a staunch Democrat, Waxman had special words of praise for Republican Senators.

"I have tremendous respect and admiration for the Republican members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who had the courage to vote against President Reagan's appointee. Similarly, I have the highest regard for those Republicans who forthrightly told Senator Hayakawa, Lefever's 'manager', that they were unable to support the nomination.

"Certainly Lefever's so-called 'voluntary withdrawal' was really an acknowledgement by him that he had no chance to win Senate confirmation. The confirmation hearings made it clear that Lefever has no interest in human rights problems in such 'friendly countries' as Argentina, El Salvador, South Africa, and South Korea."

Waxman and other Democrats in Congress took the Senate rebuff of Lefever as a good omen. It had been widely believed that the Republican-dominated Senate would always act as a rubber stamp on President Reagan's proposals and nominations. It is clear now that under the right circumstances the Senate is willing to break with the President. This fact has tremendous significance for possible Reagan Supreme Court appointees.

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